

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

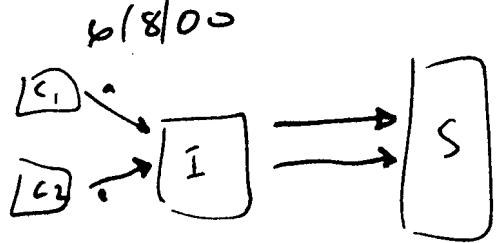
10/18/2000

Upon entry of this amendment, the following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the pending application.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-8, and add claims 9-44 as follows:

1-8. (Canceled)



9. (New) A method of pooling by an interface unit a transport layer connection to a server, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving, by an interface unit, a first request of a first client to access a server, the first client and the interface unit communicating via a first transport layer connection;
- (b) identifying, by the interface unit, that the interface unit has a second transport layer connection established with the server indicated by the first request;
- (c) determining, by the interface unit, that a second client and the server are not transferring data for a second request via the second transport layer connection;
- (d) transmitting, by the interface unit, the first request via the second transport layer connection in response to the determination of step (c);
- (e) determining, by the interface unit, that the second client and the server are transferring data for the second request via the second transport layer connection in response to receiving a third request from one of the first client or the second client to access the server; and
- (f) establishing, by the interface unit, a third transport layer connection with the server in response to the determination of step (e).

10. (New) The method of claim 9, comprising receiving, by the interface unit, the second request to access the server via one of the first client, the second client or a third client.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, comprising intercepting, by the interface unit, one of the first request, the second request or the third request.

12. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (b) comprises identifying, by the interface unit, the server from a destination internet protocol address of a network packet of the first request.

13. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (b) comprises identifying, by the interface unit, the server from a path name of the first request.

14. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (c) comprises receiving, by the interface unit, one of a finish command or a reset command from the second client.

15. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (c) comprises determining, by the interface unit, via a content length parameter of transferred data that the second client and the server have completed transferring data.

16. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (c) comprises determining, by the interface unit, via one or more chunk-size fields of transferred data that the second client and the server have completed transferring data.

17. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (e) comprises determining, by the interface unit, that the second client and the server have not transferred at least a last byte of data.

18. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (e) comprises determining, by the interface unit, via a content length parameter of transferred data that the second client and the server have not completed transferring data.

19. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (e) comprises determining, by the interface unit, via one or more chunk-size fields of transferred data that the second client and the server have not completed transferring data.

20. (New) The method of claim 9, comprising inserting, by the interface unit, information in the first request of the first client to indicate to the server to keep a transport layer connection open.

21. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein step (f) comprises waiting, by the interface unit, to use the second transport layer connection to transmit the third request.

22. (New) The method of claim 21, comprising receiving, by the interface unit, an acknowledgement from the second client that transferring of data between the second client and the server via the second transport layer connection has completed.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, comprising transmitting, by the interface unit, the third request via the second transport layer connection in response to receiving the acknowledgement.

24. (New) The method of claim 9, comprising receiving, by the interface unit, a response to the first request from the server via the second transport layer connection, and transmitting the response to the first client via the first transport layer connection.

25. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein one of the first request, the second request or the third request comprises a request to open a transport layer connection.

26. (New) The method of claim 9, comprising transmitting, by the interface unit, the third request via the third transport layer connection.

27. (New) An interface unit for pooling a transport layer connection to a server, the interface unit comprising:

means for receiving a first request of a first client to access a server, the first client and the interface unit communicating via a first transport layer connection;

means for identifying that the interface unit has a second transport layer connection established with the server indicated by the first request;

means for ascertaining that a second client and the server are not transferring data for a second request via the second transport layer connection and transmitting the first request via the second transport layer connection;

means for transmitting the first request via the second transport layer connection in response to the means for ascertaining;

means for determining that the second client and the server are transferring data for the second request via the second transport layer connection in response to receiving a third request from one of the first client or the second client to access the server; and

means for establishing a third transport layer connection with the server in response to the determination.

28. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for receiving the second request to access the server via one of the first client, the second client or a third client.

29. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for intercepting one of the first request, the second request or the third request.

30. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for identifying the server from a destination internet protocol address of a network packet of the first request.

31. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for identifying the server from a path name of the first request.

32. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for receiving one of a finish command or a reset command from the second client.

33. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for determining via a content length parameter of transferred data that the second client and the server have completed transferring data.

34. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for determining via one or more chunk-size fields of transferred data that the second client and the server have completed transferring data.

35. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for determining that the second client and the server have not transferred at least a last byte of data.
36. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for determining, by the interface unit, via a content length parameter of transferred data that the second client and the server have not completed transferring data.
37. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for determining via one or more chunk-size fields of transferred data that the second client and the server have not completed transferring data.
38. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for inserting information in the first request of the first client to indicate to the server to keep a transport layer connection open.
39. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for waiting to use the second transport layer connection to transmit the third request instead of establishing the third transport layer connection.
40. (New) The interface unit of claim 39, comprising means for receiving an acknowledgement from the second client that transferring of data between the second client and the server via the second transport layer connection has completed.
41. (New) The interface unit of claim 40, comprising means for transmitting the third request via the second transport layer connection in response to receiving the acknowledgement.
42. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for receiving a response to the first request from the server via the second transport layer connection, and transmitting the response to the first client via the first transport layer connection.
43. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, wherein one of the first request, the second request or the third request comprises a request to open a transport layer connection.
44. (New) The interface unit of claim 27, comprising means for transmitting the third request via the third transport layer connection.